



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 08442-0002-04000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Joseph CAUTHEN) Group Art Unit: 3738
Application No.: 10/085,040) Examiner: U. Chattopadhyay
Filed: March 1, 2002)
For: INTERVERTEBRAL DISC)
ANNULUS STENT)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action mailed September 25, 2003, the period response extended through a three (3) month extension of time accompanying this paper, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments follow the amendment section of this paper.

Attachments to this reply include: i) copy of Pease (U.S. 2,671,444); ii) copy of Gan (U.S. 5,964,807); iii) copy of Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar, 19 U.S.P.Q.2d 1111 (Fed. Cir. 1991); iv) copy of Ex parte Porter, 25 U.S.P.Q.2d 1144 (BdPatApp&Int 1992); v) copy of Provisional Application No. 60/149,490 filed August 18, 1999 [Lambrecht], vi) U.S. Provisional Application No.

60/161,085 filed October 25, 1999 [Lambrecht]; and vii) Provisional Application
No. 60/172,996 filed December 21, 1999 [Lambrecht].